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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC COULD BECOME A LATIN AMERICAN LAOS

(Mr. CRAMER (at the request of Mr. CLEVELAND) was granted permission to extend his remarks at this point in the Record and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I am greatly disturbed by a report in today's paper that the United States has offered Dominican Brig. Gen. Elias Wessin y Wessin \$50,000 to leave the Dominican Republic. If this report is true, it is an alarming indication of the extent this administration will go to obtain support for a provisional government in the Dominican Republic which, in my judgment, could result in that country becoming a Latin American Laos.

The Communists have surfaced in the Dominican Republic. The rebel held zone has been turned into an annex of Havana with training in subversion, sabotage, and political indoctrination going on under the noses of the OAS peacekeeping force and the United States.

The Castro inspired 14th of June movement, the Red Chinese MPD—Dominican Popular Movement—and the Dominican Communist Party now control the rebel military organization in that country. As such, they will play a key part in the coalition government established this week.

Mr. Speaker, this administration has stumbled and bumbled the Dominican Republic situation and must bear the blame for what I fear will be an eventual Communist takeover there.

That the administration is now attempting to buy off what may be one of the last pro-American leaders in that country, in view of the facts I just recited, is alarming indeed.

The administration first asked Dominican General Berreras to drive the pro-Communist rebels out of the Dominican Republic. Following repeated attacks on the President's sending of marines into that country by so-called teach-in groups and other ultraliberal organizations and individuals in this country and Latin America, our goal quickly changed and what was formed as a protective zone to save American and foreign lives in downtown Santo Domingo became a wall of protection for the rebels themselves. Thus, Berreras' attempts to drive the rebels out were frustrated by the very same U.S. troops sent in to prevent that country from falling into the rebels' hands. Because Berreras refused the rebel demands voiced by the OAS team, he was forced out by the withholding of U.S. funds.

Having entered the Dominican Republic in the first place, it is inconceivable that the United States should have backed down in this manner.

Today, the Communist-led rebels are stronger than ever, both politically and militarily, and have been elevated to a position of dignity dictating much of the settlement terms and by becoming a partner in the provisional government in the Dominican Republic. They are certain to use this position as a platform from which to launch an intensive campaign to take over the Dominican Republic and to abort the election process supposedly guaranteed by the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the same considerations which justified our intervention in that country in the first place justify the continued presence of U.S. troops in Santo Domingo until we are certain that the country will not be taken over by the Communists.

All of this points to the failure of our policy with regards to the real trouble spot in this hemisphere—Communist Cuba.

Castro continues to be the real cancer in this hemisphere. He is now spreading his tentacles to Africa. So long as we refuse to take short-of-war action against Cuba, we can expect further Dominican Republics to erupt throughout the world.

I am hopeful the administration will consider a meaningful trade ban, the recognition of a non-Communist Cuban government in exile, and a stop to the flow of Communist trainees and arms between Cuba and other Latin American nations as well as Africa.

Following is an article from the September 6, 1965, issue of the U.S. News & World Report which discusses this situation. Following also is the press report on the U.S. offer of \$50,000 to Gen. Wessin y Wessin which appeared in the Washington Post, September 7, 1965:

[From U.S. News & World Report, Sept. 6, 1965]

AS COMMUNISTS SURFACE IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

(NOTE.—Communists are out in the open now in the Dominican Republic, plotting to spread the fighting on a countrywide basis. Arms stockpiles, guerrilla schools, sabotage—all are involved in the Red strategy for an eventual takeover.)

SANTO DOMINGO.—A festering sore of communism, centered in downtown Santo Domingo, now is threatening to infect the whole of the Dominican Republic, adding to the problems that the U.S. faces here.

Active and powerful in the rebel zone of this capital city are three Communist groups. Each is hiding arms around the country, and training young men to use them later, in guerrilla war, or terrorism.

The Communists began surfacing their plans to fight on even as the rebel "President," Col. Francisco Caamaño Dénio, was negotiating to end the civil war. There was increasing evidence that Caamaño himself was a captive of his Communist supporters.

Two of the Communist groups publicly rejected the plan to end the civil war by settling up a provisional government. Instead, they called for a Castro-style armed struggle to go on.

On August 11, one of these parties even dropped its old name, "Socialist," and came out openly as the "Dominican Communist Party."

Five days later, this party proclaimed its "main task": to prepare for further armed struggle, so that the Communists can win "victory in the next popular insurrection."

The second Communist group that calls for continued war is the Dominican Popular Movement, or MPD, which follows the Red Chinese line.

Third and largest of the Communist organizations is the "14th of June Movement," made up mostly of tough young men who want to follow the path of Fidel Castro.

POPULAR FRONT?

The 14th of June movement is saying little now about its long-range goal of violent revolution. Instead, it is trying to lure non-Communist leftists into a "popular front," with softer talk.

But the 14th of June movement, like the other two groups, is setting up forces to go on fighting.

The 14th of June movement is stockpiling arms, in and out of

Santo Domingo. Like the others, it is recruiting young men from all parts of the republic, and bringing them into the rebel zone for short courses in guerrilla war, sabotage, and terror.

Taxicab drivers do the recruiting. They tour the country, offering free rides back to the rebel zone to anyone who wants to get guerrilla training.

Intelligence reports from inside the rebel zone indicate many young men jump at the chance. An estimated 1,200 to 1,500 are in training at the center run by the 14th of June movement in a park in the rebel zone. At night, they go to classes in political indoctrination.

The group also operates an advanced school in demolition, judo, sabotage and hand-to-hand combat. This school, in the National Conservatory of Music, had 260 men and 30 women in training, in mid-August.

Col. Manuel Montes Arache heads the faculty. An expert frogman, he also is chief of armed forces in the Caamaño government. Smaller guerrilla schools are run by MPD and the Communist Party.

These recruits are in addition to the hard core of Communists already trained to fight as guerrillas or terrorists.

Rock-bottom estimates of this strength, counting only trained partisan fighters, are listed this way:

MPD—about 500.

Communist Party—700 to 1,000.

Fourteenth of June Movement—more than 3,000. Not all are fully trained or politically indoctrinated, but all are under tight Communist control.

These people add up to a formidable armed force—particularly in a country as politically divided as the Dominican Republic. And, increasingly, there are reports that the power of the Communist groups is growing within the rebel camps.

Many of the reports come from Dominican military officers who have been with the rebels, but now are defecting in ever-increasing numbers.

Consensus of the reports from these defectors is that the Reds command at least 75 percent of the rebel zone's "commando" posts—the basic units of the rebel military organization.

In addition, the defecting officers say, Communists control all the rebel distribution points for arms.

WHAT REDS ARE PLANNING

Reports of new Communist strategic plans are seeping out of the rebel zone.

One of these plans is to seize a few small towns, far from the capital, and set up bases for Castro-type guerrilla war.

The best of the Communist guerrilla fighters would be slipped out of the rebel zone of Santo Domingo to lead these attacks. The targets would be lightly defended country towns, near mountains in which guerrillas could hide.

From all the data now in the hands of intelligence officials, one thing is clear:

Despite political compromises between opposing factions in the Dominican Republic, the Communists, now out in the open, are determined to fight on for an eventual Red takeover.

[From the Washington (D.C.) Post, Sept. 7, 1965]

UNITED STATES REPORTEDLY OFFERED WESSIN \$50,000 TO QUIT

CHICAGO, September 6.—The Chicago Tribune said today that Dominican Brig. Gen. Elias Wessin y Wessin has been offered \$50,000 by the United States in an attempt to get him to leave the Dominican Republic.

In an article from Santo Domingo signed by Jules DuBois, the newspaper said Wessin had turned down the alleged offer.

DuBois said Wessin told him in an interview that he was visited between midnight and 2 a.m. Wednesday by two men he identified as Lt. Col. Joe Wyrick, an Army attaché, and David Phillips, of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The article said Wessin said he had been offered the money for his three-bedroom home and a lot across the street.

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